

Fort Payne church of Christ



The Weekly Moment

A Weekly Motivational Message

Wednesday, June 3, 2020

It Is Well With My Soul

*When peace like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to know
It is well, it is well, with my soul.*

What a beautiful and powerful song.

"It Is Well With My Soul" is a hymn penned by hymnist Horatio Spafford and composed by Philip Bliss.

This hymn was written after traumatic events in Spafford's life. The first two were the death of his four-year-old son and the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, which ruined him financially (he had been a successful lawyer and had invested significantly in property in the area of Chicago that was extensively damaged by the great fire). His business interests were further hit by the economic downturn of 1873, at which time he had planned to travel to Europe with his family on the *SS Ville du Havre*. In a late change of plan, he sent the family ahead while he was delayed on business concerning zoning problems following the Great Chicago Fire. While crossing the Atlantic Ocean, the ship sank rapidly after a collision with a sea vessel, the *Loch Earn*, and all four of Spafford's daughters died. His wife Anna survived and sent him the now famous telegram, "Saved alone ...". Shortly afterwards, as Spafford traveled to meet his grieving wife, he was inspired to write these words as his ship passed near where his daughters had died. Bliss called his tune *Ville du Havre*, from the name of the stricken vessel.

Many times I have led this song over the years and have been moved by the words as we sang. It's incredible to think such encouraging and uplifting words were born from the depths of such unimaginable sorrow. It's an example of truly inspiring faith and trust in the Lord. And it goes to show the power our God has to overcome even the darkest times of our earthly life.

As the song concludes:

*And Lord haste the day when the faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled by as a scroll;
The trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend,
Even so, it is well with my soul!*

A sight that all Christians anxiously await and yearn for.

Think about it.

Here's hoping you'll make the "*most of your minutes*" this week.

Hope to see you at Bible Study *soon*.

In Christian Love,

Bob Strickland